

## **23. Fall**

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A **52-year-old** Hispanic carpenter/laborer died after falling nine feet to the ground at a residential construction site. He was standing on a double top plate on an interior wall of the residence under construction before he fell. The double top plate measured approximately five inches in width. Access to the top plate was by a 10-foot step ladder. He was picking up unused nails from the top plate and handing them to a co-worker on the ground floor. The co-worker was positioned to reach for the nails from the victim when he looked away for a moment and then saw the victim as he hit the ground floor. Apparently, the victim lost his balance or footing on the narrow top plate. The victim was unconscious immediately after the fall. Emergency services were called and they transported him to a hospital, but there he was reported as deceased.

### **Citations as Originally Issued**

A complete inspection was conducted of the worksite. Thus, some of the items cited may not directly relate to the fatality

#### **Citation 1**

Item 1 1926.50(c)	In the absence of an infirmary, clinic, hospital or physician that was reasonably accessible in terms of time and distance to the worksite which was available for the treatment of injured employees, a person or person with a valid certificate in first-aid that could be verified by documentary evidence was not available at the worksite to render first aid.
Item 2 1926.501(b)(1)	Each employee on a walking/working surface (horizontal and vertical surface) with an unprotected side or edge which is 6 feet (1.8 m) or more above a lower level was not protected from falling by use of guardrail systems, safety net systems, or personal fall arrest systems.
Item 3a 1926.1053(b)(1)	Portable ladders were used for access to an upper landing surface and the ladder side rails did not extend at least 3 feet (0.9 m) above the upper landing surface to which the ladder was used to gain access.
Item 3b 1926.105(b)(4)	Ladders were used for purposes other than the purpose for which they were designed.

**See Photo on Next Page**



Red arrow indicates where the employee was working when he fell  
Yellow arrow indicated location of the employee after he fell  
Orange circle shows the nails the employee had collected  
Green arrow points to the step ladder used to access the top of the interior wall